Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Young people will be the stewards of our communities, nations and world, and the present and future well-being of our society requires an involved, caring citizenry with good character; and,

Whereas, Concerns about the character training of children have taken on a new sense of urgency as violence by and against youth threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the nation; and,

Whereas, Children need strong and constructive guidance from their families and their communities, including schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, and civic groups; and,

Whereas, The character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens, and the public good benefits when the young people learn that good character counts in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace; and,

Whereas, Scholars and educators agree people do not automatically develop good character and, therefore, conscientious efforts must be made by youth influencing individuals and institutions to help young people develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character; and,

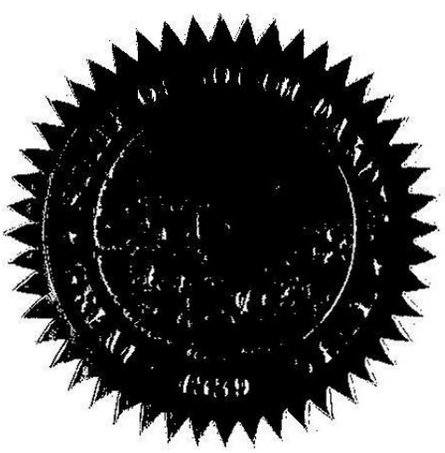
Whereas, Character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, while efforts by faith communities, schools, and youth, civic, and human service organizations also play a very important role in supporting family efforts by fostering and promoting good character; and,

Whereas, In South Dakota, the most widely used character education framework is **CHARACTER COUNTS!** which is based on the "Six Pillars of Character" – Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 18 – 24, 2009, as

CHARACTER COUNTS! WEEK

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-first Day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State